

the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Jerry worked tirelessly on their behalf. In fact, it was largely through his work and dedication that the Veterans Administration was elevated to a cabinet-level department.

Jerry was a man who didn't mince words—he was fair and principled and called things as he saw them. We got along well because we were similar in many ways and agreed on a lot of things. But, sometimes, we disagreed. I never, for example, quite saw the merits of the Northeast Dairy Compact the way he did—but even when we disagreed, we disagreed like gentlemen.

It is a testament to his character as a legislator, and a reflection of his leadership, that during his final years in the House, he served as Chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee. This is particularly noteworthy because as many of you know, he was the first Republican to have that position in four decades!

When Jerry spoke, people listened. Not because he was Chairman of the Rules Committee, but simply because if he took the time to tell you something, you could bet it was worth your while to pay attention to him.

It is with a heavy heart that I say good-bye to my friend Jerry. My wife Cheryl and I would like to express our condolences to Jerry's wife Freda, their five children, six grandchildren, and brother, in this time of sorrow and sadness. They will be in our prayers.

#### CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF OAKLAND

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland, California.

In 1941, the Filbert Street Boys Club merged with the East Oakland Boys Club to become the Oakland Boys Clubs. The purpose of this club was to create a fun environment while at the same time provide educational programs and services specifically tailored to the needs of young men. For many years the Oakland Boys Clubs were solely focused on providing for the well-being of boys. However, in 1989 the Board of Directors agreed that their organization should be a club that is inclusive rather than exclusive. Therefore, they extended their membership to young women. They wanted the Oakland Boys Clubs to become the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland which would welcome young people of all backgrounds.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland have a membership of 2,400 people who are taking full advantage of the programs and services this organization has to provide. The Boys & Girls Clubs offer career development, character and leadership development, health and life skills, arts, sports, fitness and recreation opportunities. They empower young men and women to live a happier, healthier and fuller lives.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland strives to instill and enhance a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, influence and responsibility in each child. This organization is dedicated to enriching the lives of our youth.

I ask Congress to join me and the constituents of the 9th Congressional District in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland and in wishing them many more years of success and positive influence on our young leaders of tomorrow!

#### HONORING COMMUNITY VETERANS

#### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and give thanks to Latino veterans across the nation and in New York's 12th District—those brave soldiers who served in our Armed Forces during times of turmoil and crisis in our Nation's history.

Today, the Borinquen Senior Center celebrates another anniversary—close to the landmark one of a quarter of a century. Since its doors opened 24 years ago, the center has been a safehaven for hundreds of seniors and veterans in the Williamsburg, New York community. The Borinquen Center serves three meals per day to almost two hundred seniors, including veterans. It provides meals on wheels for homebound seniors, offers workshops on healthcare and other important issues, arranges activities, and provides classes such as ESL (English as a Second Language). Through its work, the center plays a very important role in the community. And as the Borinquen Center celebrates its anniversary, it will also honor—for the first time—the veterans of this country who served so bravely in our Armed Services.

Given the war against terrorism our great Nation is now waging both here and overseas, I believe we must take time to honor and give thanks to a few of our Nation's Latino veterans from the 12th District. Many of these men were young men, unaware of how war would change them when they enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. They joined the service with hopes of strengthening our nation's security, fighting for the ideals of democracy and freedom, and ensuring a more peaceful world. Although many returned home with lasting wounds, their spirit was never broken. It is important that we remember on this Veteran's Day the sacrifices they made for this country.

Therefore, it is with much appreciation that I honor the Latino veterans of my district in celebration of November 11: Luis Maldonado, 1940–1946; Angel Acevedo, 1941–1947; Jose La Fuente, 1942–1945; Herminio Rivera, 1942–1947; George Feliciano, 1947–1967; Jose Calderon, 1951–1954; Oscar Figueroa, 1951–1954; Gilberto Bonilla, 1952–1954; Isamel A. Torres, 1952–1956; Francisco Adames, 1953–1955; Felix Gonzalez, 1953–1957; Jose Rendon, 1953–1961; Fundadon V. Cancel, 1954–1958; Gerardo Torres, 1954–1959; George A. Maldonado, 1954–1956; Carlos M. Colon, 1956–1958; Augustin Perez, 1957–1959; Adolfo Rivera, 1960–1962.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. ELDON H. STRODE

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Eldon H. Strode and thank him for his contributions to the community of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Eldon passed away this October at his residence in Wickenburg, Arizona.

Mr. Strode came to Colorado in 1945. He began work in the ranch industry, working the land for more than two decades. After his work in ranching, he ventured in the coal industry for thirteen years until his retirement in 1981.

Eldon was an avid sports enthusiast in the Glenwood Springs community where he was a member of the basketball and softball league. Eldon also volunteered his services as a member of the youth baseball program and as a member of the chain crew for many football games at Glenwood Springs High School. In 1980, he was honored for his contributions to the team. Mr. Strode continued his involvement in the ranch industry by volunteering his knowledge to several cattlemen associations such as the Colorado Cattlemen and the Holy Cross Cattlemen's Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember Eldon H. Strode. The many people he impacted will remember his contributions and dedication. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. —, THE MERCHANT MARINE COST PAR- ITY ACT OF 2001

#### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 8, 2001*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, we are a nation of immigrants, most of whom arrived on the shores of the United States by ship. We are a country in which 95 percent of our imports from noncontiguous countries are brought to us by ship. Yet, less than one percent of our imports and exports are transported on U.S.-flag ships.

The Baltimore Sun recently published two articles that accurately described the decline of the U.S.-flag fleet. As the article states, vessels don't fly the U.S.-flag anymore "because American cargo ships are also the most expensive in the world." The first article was titled "Merchant marine's demise endangers war readiness". Not only will we not have sufficient ships to move our war materials, but we won't have enough trained sailors to operate the laid-up fleet of Government-owned ships that the Department of Defense is depending on to transport our tanks and heavy equipment when they are mobilized.

In 1991, the United States needed more than 200 cargo ships to support Operation Desert Storm. To get those vessels operating, we called up retired seamen who had sailed during World War II. Today, we have fewer ships and fewer trained personnel.